

May 10, 2018

KNOW YOUR STATUS: DOH-PINELLAS PROVIDES NO-COST HEPATITIS TESTS ON MAY 18



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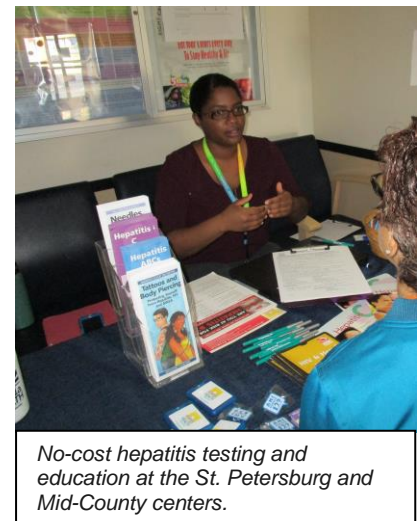
(727) 824-6908 (media only)

To mark National Hepatitis Testing Day on May 19, the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) is urging individuals to take advantage for no-cost hepatitis testing and education on Friday, May 18.

It's especially important for Baby Boomers, those born between 1946 and 1964, and those who share needles to know their status because hepatitis can reside in the body without symptoms for decades. Knowing one's status can mean an opportunity for early treatment before symptoms flare up.

Staff will provide the screenings and education on hepatitis A, B and C at the St. Petersburg and Mid-County centers at these locations from 9 AM to 12 PM:

- **St. Petersburg:** 205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N.
- **Mid-County:** 8751 Ulmerton Rd., Largo



The term “hepatitis” means an inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis A, B and C are the most common form of Viral Hepatitis in the United States. These viruses can have similar symptoms, but different ways of being transmitted:

- **Hepatitis A** is a very contagious live infection that's usually spread when objects, food or stool from an infected person are eaten by others. An effective vaccine is available prevent the spread of hepatitis A.
- **Hepatitis B** spreads via bodily fluids from one person to another. Sex and contact with contaminated blood can pass it on. There is a vaccine to prevent hepatitis B. Two-thirds of people with hepatitis B don't know they are infected.
- **Hepatitis C** spreads when blood from a person with the infection enters another person's body. Sharing needles is a possible mode of transmission. Baby Boomers—older adults born between 1945 and 1965—have the highest hepatitis C rates among age groups over 30. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that Baby Boomers get tested for hepatitis C at least once in their lifetimes.

The CDC has an online tool to help adults determine their hepatitis risk. Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/riskassessment/index.htm> to take the quiz.

For information on DOH-Pinellas' Hepatitis Program, go to <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/hepatitis/index.html> or call (727) 824-6932. DOH-Pinellas provides hepatitis vaccines at its clinics.

For information about DOH-Pinellas, go to <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/index.html> or follow us on Twitter [@HealthyPinellas](https://twitter.com/HealthyPinellas).

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About the Florida Department of Health

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